

Please amend claims 1, 3-4, 6, 10, 12, 16-17, 19, 21-23, 27-28 as follows:

91 1. (Amended) An apparatus for [fixing] augmenting an interference screw fixation of a ligament [or tendon] in a bone tunnel, wherein the interference screw engages a wall of the bone tunnel and engages the ligament in the bone tunnel, and whereby resistance to slippage of [a] the ligament is improved, said apparatus comprising a jamming retainer adapted to retain the ligament [or tendon], said jamming retainer being adapted for disposition in the bone tunnel, distally of the ligament, and such that upon disposition of the interference screw to lock the ligament in the bone tunnel, said jamming retainer is adapted to be engaged by the interference screw to prevent proximal migration of said jamming retainer, said jamming retainer being substantially rigid.

92 3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said jamming retainer [having] is provided with at least one [or more] of a longitudinal bore, a transverse bore, [or] and a ring for receiving a suture.

a² 4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said jamming retainer [including] is provided with a loop for receiving [a] the ligament [or tendon].

a³ 6. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, said jamming retainer having a transverse bore for receiving a ligament [or tendon].

a⁴ 10. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said jamming retainer threads correspond to threads of [an] the interference screw which are adapted to fix said jamming retainer in the bone tunnel.

a⁵ 12. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a suture retainer, said jamming retainer having a bore configured to receive [a] said suture retainer.

a⁶ 16. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, said [body] apparatus having a second bore adapted to permit passage of the suture from said jamming retainer bore.

17. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:
[the] a suture received between said suture retainer and
said bore retains the ligament [or tendon]; and
said [body] jamming retainer is fixed in the bone tunnel;
whereby tension on the ligament [or tendon] urges said
suture retainer into said bore.

19. (Amended) The method of claim [18] 46, [further
comprising] wherein placing the jamming retainer and the ligament
in the bone tunnel comprises pulling the jamming retainer through
the bone tunnel with a suture.

20. (Amended) The method of claim [18] 46, further
comprising pushing the jamming retainer through the bone tunnel
with a ligament inserter.

21. (Amended) The method of claim [18] 46, [including:]
wherein connecting the ligament [or tendon] to the jamming
retainer is effected with a suture[; and knotting the suture].

22. (Amended) The method of claim [18] 21, [further comprising] wherein placing the jamming retainer and the ligament in the bone tunnel comprises pulling the jamming retainer through the bone tunnel with [one or more] a free [ends] end of the suture.

23. (Amended) The method of claim [18] 46, [including] wherein connecting the jamming retainer to the ligament comprises introducing the ligament [or tendon] into a [loop or transverse] bore in the jamming retainer.

Please add the following claims:

29. (New Claim) An assembly for fixation of a ligament in a bone tunnel, said assembly comprising:
an interference screw for disposition in the bone tunnel to engage a wall of the bone tunnel and to engage the ligament; and
a jamming retainer for disposition in the bone tunnel distally of the ligament and connected to the ligament;
said jamming retainer being engageable by said interference screw to prevent proximal migration of said jamming retainer.

30. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 29, wherein said jamming retainer is provided with at least one of a bore and a ring for receiving a suture.

31. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 29, wherein said jamming retainer is provided with a loop for receiving the ligament.

as 32. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 31, wherein the loop is pliable.

33. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 29, wherein said jamming retainer is provided with a transverse bore for receiving the ligament.

34. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 29, wherein said jamming retainer is provided with a substantially spherical shape.

35. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 29, wherein said jamming retainer is provided with a recess adapted to complement a shape of the ligament.

36. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 29, wherein said jamming retainer is provided with exterior threads.

37. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 36, wherein said jamming retainer threads correspond to threads of said interference screw, the interference screw threads being adapted to fix said jamming retainer in the bone tunnel.

38. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 29, wherein said jamming retainer exhibits an external taper.

39. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 29 and further comprising a suture retainer, wherein said jamming retainer is provided with a bore configured to receive said suture retainer.

40. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 39 wherein the suture retainer is provided with a shape complementary to the bore.

41. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 40 wherein the suture retainer shape is tapered.

42. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 39 wherein the suture retainer and the bore are configured to bind suture therebetween.

43. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 42 wherein said jamming retainer is provided with a second bore adapted to permit passage of the suture from the suture retaining bore.

ar 44. (New Claim) The assembly of claim 39, wherein:
the suture received between the suture retainer and the jamming retainer bore retains the ligament; and
said jamming retainer is fixed in the bone tunnel;
whereby tension on the ligament urges the suture retainer into the jamming retainer bore.

45. (New Claim) A graft ligament assembly comprising:
a graft ligament for disposition in a bone tunnel;
an interference screw for disposition in the bone tunnel to engage a wall of the bone tunnel and to engage said graft ligament; and

a jamming retainer for disposition in the bone tunnel distally of the graft ligament and connected to said graft ligament;

said jamming retainer being engageable by said interference screw to prevent proximal migration of said jamming retainer.

46. (New Claim) A method for fixing a ligament in a bone tunnel, the method comprising:

providing an assembly comprising an interference screw and a jamming retainer;

connecting the jamming retainer to the ligament at a distal end of the ligament;

placing the jamming retainer and the ligament in the bone tunnel with the jamming retainer disposed distally of the ligament; and

inserting the interference screw into the bone tunnel, the interference screw engaging a wall of the bone tunnel and engaging the ligament in the bone tunnel to effect fixation of the ligament in the bone tunnel;

the interference screw further engaging the jamming retainer in the bone tunnel to prevent proximal migration of the jamming retainer, thereby augmenting the fixation of the ligament in the bone tunnel.

47. (New Claim) The method of claim 46, wherein the interference screw threadedly engages the jamming retainer.

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48. (New Claim) The method of claim 46, wherein the interference screw urges the jamming retainer into the wall of the bone tunnel.

Remarks

Claims 1-28 were rejected in the outstanding Office Action, and claims 25-28 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 18 and 24-28 have now been canceled, claims 1, 3-4, 6, 10, 12, 16-17, 19 and 21-23 amended, and claims 29-48 added, leaving claims 1, 3-17, 19-23 and 29-48 in the case.

The rejection of claims recited on pages 2-5 of the Office Action have been carefully reviewed, and amendments to the claims entered, to correct the noted deficiencies. It is believed that the claims, as amended, have now been cured of the various defects and are now in condition for allowance, at least with respect to form.

With respect to the objection to the specification, noted on page 5 of the Office Action, it is believed that the claims, as now amended, are based upon an adequate written description, sufficient to teach how to make and use the claimed invention.

Turning to the substantive rejections of the claims, claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Curtis.